GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2064
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2006
SHORTAGE OF STAFF IN RPOs
Rana Shri Kashi Ram

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Passport Office situated in Surat is not functioning effectively due to non-availability of staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar situation has been noticed in other RPOs also;

(d) if so, the details thereof, RPO-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to appoint adequate staff in the above Passport Offices?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a)&(b). No. It is not a fact that Passport Office, Surat is not functioning effectively. However, there is indeed shortage of staff in Passport Office, Surat where against a total sanctioned strength of 49, there were only 33 employees as on 1.11.2006.

(c) & (d) There is shortage of staff in other Passport Offices also. As on 1.11.2006, there were a total of 2,172 employees working against the sanctioned strength of 2,349. A chart showing working strength in various Passport Offices is enclosed as an annexure.

(e) In September 2006, Ministry of Finance approved creation of 395 posts and abolition of 102 posts in various grades of the Central Passport Organization. Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) were convened in August, 2006 for promotion to the posts of Assistants and UDCs to fill up the additional posts sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance. Action is also underway to convene DPCs for filling up newly sanctioned posts of officials in other Grades in consultation with UPSC.